

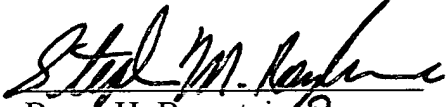
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REMARKS

By the above amendment, claims 3-6 and 8 have been amended to delete multiple dependency.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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APPENDIX
MARKED-UP COPY OF CLAIM AMENDMENTS

3. (Amended) The method for producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer according to [claim 1 or 2] claim 1, wherein said alkali metal compound is a compound of formula (2) wherein Y is -O- or -S-.

4. (Amended) The method for producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer according to [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein said alkali metal compound is a compound of formula (2) wherein Me is lithium.

5. (Amended) The method for producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer according to [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, wherein in formula (1), m is an integer of 1 to 21.

6. (Amended) The method for producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer according to [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein said alkali metal compound is any of: a compound of formula (2) wherein R is an aliphatic group having 4 or more carbon atoms, a compound of formula (2) wherein R is an aromatic group and Y is -S-; or a compound of formula (2) wherein R is $-\text{CH}(\text{R}^{20})\text{CONR}^{21}\text{R}^{22}$ wherein R^{20} represents an aliphatic group and of R^{21} and R^{22} independently represents a hydrogen atom, aliphatic group or aromatic group.

8. (Amended) A cyclic lactic acid oligomer, which is produced by the method for producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer according to [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1.